



FOOD NEWS

NOVEMBER 2015

Webinars

Sustainable Strategic Planning for Agri-Processors – Webinar Series

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry is proud to present a three part sustainability webinar series lead by sustainability expert Brett Wills, President of Green Enterprise Movement (GEM). Join Brett for this interactive journey as he introduces you to sustainability application in the Agri-Food processing sector. Click on the links below for registration information:

1. [Understanding Sustainability](#) - November 17, 2015
2. [Sustainable Strategy Development](#) - January 5, 2016
3. [Sustainable Strategy Execution](#) - February 2, 2016.

Email jim.cooper@gov.ab.ca for more details on this series.

Explore Local Business Growth (case story)

December 8, 2015 – 9AM

Andrea Cleland along with her husband Jeff have owned and operated Arber Greenhouses in Wetaskiwin for over 10 years. Given constraints on their property, the Cleland's have been forced to grow better instead of bigger and will discuss how they've diversified and grown their operation in spite of these obstacles.

To register, please go [here](#).

The Bumble Beets Way: A young farmer shares how to start and keep a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) going

January 12, 2016 – 9AM

Join Sarah Preston of Bumble Beets Farm, a young farmer just in her 2nd year of CSA.

Four years ago, Sarah made the decision to start a CSA on her farm near Tofield. She started small by testing her CSA on a handful of friends, and grew each year. Sarah will talk about the ins and outs of getting started with CSA, growing your customer base, balancing production with marketing, and how to keep it all going year after year.

To register, please go [here](#).

Events

Agri-Food Processor and Lender Reception

November 19, 2015 – 4:45-7 PM

Small and medium sized agri-food processors are invited to a presentation on processing industry trends, followed by a networking reception with members of the financial sector. Following the presentation, you are invited to stay and network with agri-food processing lenders. There will be appetizers and beverages available.

There is no fee for processors to attend, but registration is required.

To register, please call 1-800-387-6030 or email ron.lyons@gov.ab.ca for more information.

Winter Fancy Food Show

January 16-19, 2016 – San Francisco

The market development team highly recommends that you start planning now if you are interested in attending this show. It is the largest specialty food trade event on the West Coast and a showcase of industry innovation, bringing specialty food's top manufacturers, buyers, and thought leaders together under one roof for three days of delectable discovery. This year will feature more than 80,000 products and 1,400 exhibitors!

For more information click [here](#) or contact the market development team: [Darcy Peters](#) or [Lindsay Sutton](#).

North American Farmer Direct Marketing Association Convention

January 31 – Feb 6, 2016 – Vancouver and Abbotsford

Consider attending this great networking and learning opportunity; in particular the tours in the Ultimate Network Package have received rave reviews. Registration opens December 1. For more detailed convention information, please go [here](#).

Workshops

Export Readiness

November 23 - 24, 2015 – Edmonton, AB; November 25 - 26, 2015 – Calgary, AB

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry is facilitating two sessions of the Export Readiness Workshop Series to support Alberta producers and businesses exporting internationally. Workshops will be hands-on with participants drafting Export Plans/International Marketing Plans. Ideal participants are companies that do not have export experience, but are prepared and highly committed to expanding internationally as well as companies that have some export experience and are determined to leverage successes. For more information, click [here](#). To register, contact shelly.nguyen@gov.ab.ca.

The Cost of Production

December 8, 2015 – Red Hat Co-op, Redcliff, AB

December 9, 2015 – Arber Greenhouses, Wetaskiwin, AB

December 10, 2015 – Grande Prairie Provincial Building, Grande Prairie, AB

Erin Pirro of Farm Credit East will dive into the issue of cost of production, calculating it in your operation and how to address a multitude of production scenarios.

To register, call 1-800-387-6030. Cost: \$15 (Including dinner).

Human Resources

January 12, 2016 – Chinook Honey, Okotoks, AB

January 13, 2016 – Arber Greenhouses, Wetaskiwin, AB

January 20, 2016 – Green Island Garden Centre, Fairview, AB

Kristen Cumming of Cantos Performance Management is passionate about agriculture and small business human resources in Alberta. She'll be looking at current trends in goal setting, providing feedback and generating engagement in your business.

To register, call 1-800-387-6030. Cost: Free

FARM DIRECT MARKETING FORUM – January 21, 2016 – Stony Plain, AB

An open forum for those interested in starting or growing a farm direct marketing food operation that have more questions than answers. Bring your questions about food regulations, business start-up, pricing and more!

Cost: \$25 (Including lunch); Registration Deadline January 14, 2016.

For more information contact cindy.cuthbert@gov.ab.ca

Growing Forward 2 Business Opportunity Program is still accepting applications!

Under the Program, Alberta food processors are eligible for reimbursement of specific non-capital costs related to planning and researching a new business venture up to a maximum of \$30,000 over the life of the program.

For more information call 310-FARM, 310-3276, or go to www.growingforward.alberta.ca.

Alberta Food Processors Association

Upcoming Food Safety Courses

- HACCP Refresher Training, *December 7, 2015* – Calgary, AB
- HACCP IV – Validation, Verification and Reassessment, *December 8, 2015* – Calgary, AB
- HACCP V – Internal Auditing of Your HACCP System, *December 9, 2015* – Calgary, AB
- HACCP VI – Procedures Writing and Document Control, *December 10, 2015* – Calgary, AB
- Problem Solving and Root Cause Analysis, *December 11, 2015* – Calgary, AB

Register on the Alberta Food Processors Association (AFPA) website - www.afpa.com, under Training & Development/Food Safety & Quality) or email melody@afpa.com; AFPA can help you get your COR (Certificate of Recognition) – ed@afpa.com.

Connect with Agriculture and Forestry on Social Media:



Alberta Agriculture and Forestry 310-0000 (AB toll-free)

Crop Extension Branch 780-643-6249

Processing Industry & Workforce Development Branch 403-340-7625

Local/Domestic Market Expansion Branch 780-968-3553

Livestock and Farm Business Branch 780-968-6556